

# Compton Scattering

- X-rays are scattered by electrons in a crystal.
- In the particle picture for electrons and photons, this is just like an elastic collision of pool balls (chapter 9.5).

- Momentum of the photon:  $p = \frac{E}{c} = \frac{hf}{c} = \frac{h}{\lambda}$

- Momentum of the electron:  $p = mv$

- Energy of the photon:  $E = hf = \frac{hc}{\lambda}$

- Energy of the electron:  $E = \frac{1}{2}mv^2$

## Compton Scattering

- Energy conservation:  $\frac{hc}{\lambda_0} + 0 = \frac{hc}{\lambda'} + \frac{1}{2}mv^2$
- Momentum conservation:
  - vertical direction:  $0 = mv \sin \theta - \frac{h}{\lambda'} \sin \phi$
  - horizontal direction:  $\frac{h}{\lambda_0} = \frac{h}{\lambda'} \cos \phi + mv \cos \theta$
- After some lengthy calculations, we get the **Compton shift equation**:

$$\lambda' - \lambda_0 = \frac{h}{mc} (1 - \cos \phi)$$

- $\lambda_c = h/mc = 0.00243 \text{ nm}$  is called the **Compton wavelength** of the electron.